





**LOOK** for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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## Hundreds Jam Wagner Institute for 7th Annual Philadelphia Magic Lantern Salon

#### By Terry Borton

Imagine my surprise when I discovered—quite by accident—a flourishing magiclantern culture in Philadelphia, quite near our new home in Pennsylvania.

For seven years the Wagner Institute of Science has been hosting a "Magic Lantern Salon"—a collection of brief lantern lectures by the archivists of local institutions, using slides from the institutions' own collections.

The Wagner museum is unique. It presents scientific exhibits in displays that are unchanged from 100 years ago. And the lecture hall looks just as it must have looked then also—U-shaped hard-back seating, with a big screen up front and a lantern located in the back of the hall. The auditorium was jammed for the lantern show with a wide cross-section of





Philadelphia's population who responded enthusiastically to all the lectures.

The presentations, each about 10 minutes long, covered a wide range of topics. Subjects included the nature explorations of Frank Gouldsmith Speck; Albert Winslow Barker's presentation on Greek dress and undress (which included photos of some undraped "Greek" ladies to wake up the audience); a historical survey of Philadelphia rail travel; "The Flag Follows the Pick" about US mining exploitation; "The Gin Shop," a British set with original reading; slides of a photographic jaunt by the Lantern and Lens Gild of Women Photographers; lantern slides of Japan; and lantern slides of Yosemite by Henry Clay Borden.

It was an exciting evening. I'm looking forward to finding ways to build ties between the Salon's organizers and The Magic Lantern Society.

https://www.hagley.org/librarynews/lantern-slide-salon-hagley-library-wagner-free-institute



#### **Member Arthur Meek's Show Debuts in NYC**



To download 23 sec. video of Arthur Meek http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/A-as-video.mov

### **Terry Borton**

Arthur Meek recently presented his unique magic lantern show, Erewhon, to an enthusiastic audience at The Caveat, an avant garde venue in New York City. Arthur was fresh from the Edinburgh (Scotland) Fringe Festival, where the show was acclaimed with five star reviews.

The show is definitely not your typical magic lantern show. Arthur, dressed in a purple velvet jump suit, mixes modern media with the old. The audience is encouraged to keep their cell phones on, and to use them to record, send texts, etc. during the show. Music is provided on screen by Eva Prowse, via video link with New Zealand, where she lives. The lantern itself, a magnificent Riley biunial that is new to Arthur, was not working

yet, so Arthur used a digital projection to create the images on screen. The slides were largely created by various modern artists, and were striking in their concept and execution.

Society member Tom Rall had a cameo at the start of the show that serves to explain where the slides came from. Tom explains to Arthur that he has been trying to sell an Erewhon slide for years but nobody will buy it because nobody understands what it's about. He succeeds in talking Arthur first into purchasing the slide, and then the whole set of Erewhon slides because they're such a great deal. (Tom is very much in character.)

Even though Arthur was not actually using the lantern to project, he manipulated the slides in it. The effect was dramatic and masterful, and the coordination with the digital projection perfect.

The music was also excellent, blending well with the drama, and also providing various unusual sound effects.

The story of Erewhon, based on an 1872 satirical novel by Samuel Butler, is a complex one of a lost society of strange green beings where all Victorian values are turned upside down. Beauty, for instance, is based on asymmetry—the more lopsided a woman's face, the more beautiful. In Arthur's version of Erewhon, a man from the past tries to colonize this society that is actually from the future, using the lantern for PR. Then, of course, he falls in love. . . If that sounds confusing, it is a bit, but Arthur's showmanship takes the day, and as a result the magic lantern now has a foothold in the Big Apple.

### 20th Century Use of Magic Lanterns

# From Ryan Shepard

ryanshepard@gmail.com

Hi David:

Attached is a postcard I recently came across that may be of interest due to its capturing an early 20th c. use of magic lanterns.

It shows a crowd in front of the Evening Star Building at 11th St. & Pennsylvania Ave., NW in Washington, D.C. looking at a news bulletin related to the 1908 presidential election, which had happened shortly before. Still up, to their left, are the screens that the Star used to display results on election night using, per the November 3, 1908 morning edition, "stereopticons which will flash returns ... together with portraits and cartoons".

An article published the previous day notes their use of "the highest-power" equipment, "carefully selected to give the beholders the clearest announcements. These bulletins will come from many sources, from the Star's own staff and special correspondents in the field; from the Associated Press; from the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies, and from the long distance telephone service." The cartoons of the candidates and other election personalities



1908\_election\_results\_Washington DC\_in front of the Evening\_Star

were by the Star's then-famous cartoonist Clifford K. Berryman, today remembered mainly for his role in the creation of the first teddy bears.

The photo and the card were made by Charles Evans, who also sent this copy. In his message on the back, he writes, "both screens were kept going until 1 o'clock" as crowds lingered on Pennsylvania Avenue well after the election was called for William Howard Taft. On November 4th, the Star reported, "They came early and stayed late, so late that when . . . one of Cliff Berryman's cartoons, showing the Peerless Leader [William Jennings Bryan] groggy in his corner and about to take the count, was flashed on one Star screen and 'Good night' on the other, there were still many thousands

of people left to laugh and cheer and pass the word along."

Interestingly, that edition of the Star also reproduces some of Berryman's hurriedly-drawn cartoons, like the one below, which notes (maybe with comic exaggeration) the passing by the Star Building of the final streetcar to the DC suburb of Chevy Chase:



#### **From David Evans**

Hi Ryan

Thank you! Yes, most interesting! Have you come across the recent book "Politicking and Emergent Media" by Charles Musser? It covers the use of magic lanterns etc during American Presidential elections. As far as I can see, your postcard is not illustrated in the book.

Regards and thanks again.

David

# **Images of Dutchness**

#### From Dellmann, S. (Sarah)

S.Dellmann@uu.nl

Dear visual media archaeologists,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the publication of my book

"Images of Dutchness - Popular Visual Culture, Early Cinema and the Emergence of a National Cliché, 1800-1914" with Amsterdam University Press (39,90 Euro)

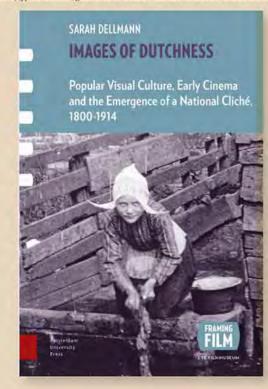
https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789462983007/images-of-dutchness

In this book, I investigate various visual media of the 19thand 20th centuries (and some of the 18th) to trace the origins of national cliché images about the Netherlands and the Dutch: when and how did the idea come up that the Dutch wear laced caps and wooden shoes - and when and how was this image understood to mean "Dutch"? The book contains over 100 illustrations (many in colour) to give evidence for the argument, many from items in private collections. It is written in English.

Best wishes, Sarah Dellmann Sarah Dellmann

# **Images of Dutchness**

Popular Visual Culture, Early Cinema and the Emergence of a National Cliché, 1800-1914



https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789462983007/images-of-dutchness

# Supplier of Masking Tapes

#### From Paul Cordes

paul@classicphotographics.co.uk

Dear Sir or Madam, Can you help me in finding a supplier, of the masking/binding tapes for sealing lantern slides.

Best Regards

Paul Cordes

#### **From David Evans**

Dear Paul

One of our members used to make up and supply packs of the binding tapes, but no longer I fear. It is a frequently asked question and if anyone can supply them please let us and Paul Cordes know

Will add that to our next E-Publication (November). I would like to buy some too!

Regards

David Evans Secretary Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada



Among the Bob Skell collection from Wenatchee, WA, were a number of advertising slides of businesses in Shelby, OH, my fathers home town, over 2,200 miles away. Attached is one of several for the "Kennedy Mammoth Clothing House" which was located at 76-78 West Main Street and is of particular interest as it was

of Troy, OH. Troy is near Dayton, OH and is about 120 miles from Shelby. Attached is an advertisement for the Troy Slide & Sign Company with a testimonial as to the virtues of the Troy advertising slides. Any reader information on the "Troy Slide & Sign Co" would be appreciated,

The black and white illustrations shown above can give idea of the beauty of one of completed, hand-colored idea of the beauty of one of completed slides, showing the if you want to see samples of completed want to see samples of completed with the interest of the idea of the idea

TROY SLIDE & SIGN COMPANY, Schaible Bldg., Troy, Ohio

# **Members Share Observations of Magic Lantern Props in Television and Films**



# From Kentwood Wells kentwood.wells@uconn.edu

Regarding magic lanterns in movies and TV shows mentioned in the October newsletter, a particularly notable example can be found in the TNT series The Alienist, in which an alienist (psychiatrist), Dr. Kreizler, tracks a serial killer in 1896 New York. The show does a great job of depicting Gilded Age New York (except for a scene in the American Museum of Natural History, which looks like a Hungarian hunting lodge with lots of deer heads on the wall). In several episodes, beginning I think with episode 3, Kreizler uses a magic lantern in his study to project a fingerprint, newly proposed as a method for identifying individuals. The whole series, originally broadcast in January, can be watched at https://www.thealienist.com/

The Alienist - TNT www.thealienist.com
Step into the mind of a killer in 1896 New York.

#### **From Lindsay Lambert**

Regarding magic lanterns on television, two episodes of the Canadian series Road to Avonlea, inspired Lucy Maude Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables stories, include the lantern. One presents a show using a W. Butcher & Sons Iron Duke just like mine. The other features an odd metal vertical cylinder biunial that they evidently made, extrapolating from the design of a children's toy lantern. The operator lights a single candle in the lamphouse, whereupon the apparatus miraculously projects a huge well-illuminated image on the screen. The lantern dramatically falls from the balcony while in use.



Sara befriends the reclusive inventor Jasper Dale and together they stage a magic lantern show to replace stolen school library funds.

https://www.avonleaguide.com/episodes/season-one/the-story-girl-earns-her-name

Another show is the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's documentary Titanic - The Canadian Experience, broadcast in 2012. It presents Canadian stories relating to the disaster, with descendants of the people involved. It has brief magic lantern and hand-cranked cinema sequences, representing media attention of the day. I know about this one because I was the lanternist. They spent the better part of a morning filming me from various angles

in multiple takes, fogging the studio to show the projection beam. In the finished product, you see my back for a fraction of a second and my hands changing slides.

Best wishes,

Lindsay.

more examples next page

# **More Magic Lantern Props in Television and Films**

# From Larry Cederblom

A rather bizarre use of the lantern!

Wild Wild West is a 1999
American steampunk
western action comedy
film directed by Barry
Sonnenfeld and written by S.
S. Wilson, Brent Maddock,
Jeffrey Price and Peter S.
Seaman. Loosely based on
The Wild Wild West 1960s

TV series created by Michael Garrison, the film stars Will Smith and Kevin Kline as two Secret Service agents who work to protect President Ulysses S. Grant from dastardly villains throughout the United States.

Forensic Scientists Once Tried to "See" a Dead Person's Last Sight Scientists once believed that the dead's last sight could be resolved from their extracted eyeballs

Read more: https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/how-forensic-scientists-once-tried-see-dead-persons-last-sight-180959157/#9RcKZ7DjTH8i4sgE.99



# From Larry Cederblom

Hell on Wheels-American television

series. Sean
McGinnes was
an immigrant
businessman
who worked
with his
brother, Mickey
McGinnes, in
Hell on Wheels.
They operated
a magic lantern
show.
First episode:
Nov. 6, 2011

Final episode: July 23, 2016





continued next page

# More Magic Lantern Props in Television and Films continued

#### From Mark Sullivan

mark@amishexperience.com

Having just read the article about Magic Lanterns in the movies, I have a couple more to throw into the mix, although I don't have pictures.

- 1) In the 80's movie "The Phantom" (based on the old comic strip) Treat Williams (the villain) is showing his henchmen and women his plans through a Magic Lantern.
- 2) In the Disney movie, "Tarzan" a big song and plot point is shared with Tarzan through a Magic Lantern.

I'm sure I've seen others, just trying to remember them.

Mark

# **Article About the Famous Apparition**

Knock-Knock-Knocking on Heaven's Door The Man With The Magic Lantern



The Man: Fr Bartholomew Cavanagh (1821-1897), Parish Priest of Knock and Aughamore in 1879. This is man who may have engineered an apparition using a magic lantern. The site of the apparition is visible in the background. Photo: Knock Shrine

#### **From Gart Westerhout**

gartsongs@gmail.com

https://ballymaclinton.wordpress. com/2018/08/21/knock-knock-knocking-on-heavens-door/

Fascinating article about the famous apparition at Knock!



## Copy of Reading for American Pilgrims Progress Slide Set

### **From John Finney**

diannefinney61@gmail.com

My name is John Finney, I am a member of the magic lantern society of great Britain, I have been in touch with Terry Borton, who gave me your email, I have in my possession a set of 24 slides, pilgrims progress (these are American slides) but unfortunately the English Reading I have for the slides is different.

I was wondering if it is no trouble to you to put an advert in your magic lantern magazine to ask if anyone has an American copy of this reading.

Kind Regards John Finney

### From Sylvia Budgen

sylvia.budgen@gmail.com

Hi,

I wonder if you could give me some advice. My family own a display of 46 magic lantern slides showing religious scenes, painted by the French artist Doré. We are debating putting them up for auction but have no idea of their worth and whether to keep them instead.

I would be grateful for any advice you could give me

Regards, Sylvia

This is not a field I am familiar with so your advice is greatly appreciated. We just want to be sure of value so we do not let them go for less than they are worth or more likely if we decide to keep them.

With reference to your email they are actually in colour. I have attached a picture for you in the hope it sheds more light on the matter, pardon the pun.

Thank you again for your help. I will mention it to the family and I hope they will agree with me that it would be nice if it did go to a collector. Then they could enjoy them as much a my father did.

If we were to submit it in the November E-Publication as you suggest and an agreement was reached, how would we approach shipping etc... being in the US and Canada?

That probably did seem an odd question. The reason why I asked is we would not be able to send them in a block because they are already framed in a wooden display case with an enclosed back light (Overall size is 82cm high x 48cm wide x 16cm depth).

Sorry for any confusion.

# **Forty Six Slide Set For Sale**



#### **FromDavid Evans**

Dear Sylvia

Gustave Doré produced a great many biblical (and other) illustrations for books, many of which appeared on magic lantern slides. They are actually quite common, so don't raise your expectations too much if you decide to sell them. If yours are coloured they would be somewhat rarer, many of his engravings were

of course black and white, but some of the lantern slide versions were tinted by the slide maker.

Hope this helps and than you for contacting us. David Evans

Obviously they are biblical, a nicely coloured set. To get an idea of their value I suggest you search eBaythey often have 5000 - 10,000 slides on at any time. The Society does not do appraisals as such, but it does look like a good set. If it would help, we could add them to our next E-Publication (November) as available for sale and open to offers, or you could suggest an asking price. One or two of our members do collect biblical illustrations.

Where are you located? The shipping cost would, of course, be born by the purchaser. You'd need to pack them well, though lantern slides in a block are actually quite strong. I would pack 20 or so together in a block and put about 3 layers of bubble wrap around them, and then put the blocks in a strong cardboard box, again with plenty of bubble wrap etc, wherever you send them. The majority of our members are in USA, but mailing to Canada would be about the same cost as to USA or any other International destination. Should be insured, if possible, and at least a tracking number if not 'signed for', to show that they have been delivered. I'm not quite sure what you were asking, but I hope that covers it!

Yes, that would make a difference! An option might be to remove them from it perhaps, but if we put it in the E-Pub we should make it clear that the light box is included (or not, if you want to keep it). Would obviously need a much bigger box and careful packing, and probably more expensive to ship. It would be useful to include your approximate location in case someone local might want them.

Regards David



Hi David,

I had contacted you and the Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada back in July 13 looking to identify an item we though was a magic lantern. You actually told us it was a Postcard Projector.

We've filmed the episode and are doing fact-checking right now! I wanted to find out if you and your team might be able to verify some lines our hosts say for accuracy. Please let me know if you're able to help and then I can send it along to you.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Cheers,

Jacqui 65 Heward Ave. Toronto, ON M4M 2T5 Canada

Hi David,

Excellent, thank you so much!

The lines in question are below (in red):

01:12:15 S: A Vintage postcard projector. This thing is over 100 years old. It's got two light bulbs.

01:12:22 B: This has two chimneys to vent the light bulb heat out.

This was a great way try and show off where they'd been. They'd buy postcards and then if they have their family over their friends over they could put the postcards in the back. The light would light up the postcard. This lens would focus about maximum 4 or 5 feet.

**Postcard Projector** 



01:12:42 B: This is the grand-daddy to the real slide projector.

01:13:07 It's very low-tech. It's tech. I'd like to see if we could juice it a bit more. These are pretty dim. They're using incandescent lights. But today you could put LED bulbs in there, which are brighter and don't get as hot. So you'd have more light. Maybe you could get a cleaner brighter pictures.

Is there a way to modify the postcard projector with modern technology? Our hosts mentions it but I haven't seen any examples online.

Also, I also would love to find out how much you think it's worth and what it's market value (online) is? I've attached a picture of it for you to remind you of what it looks like and it's condition.

Cheers, Jacqui

#### **From David Evans**

Jacqui

Maybe this would do for postcard projectors

http://celsun.com/download/CS341%20Instructions.pdf

People haven't, as far as I know, done this before, but no reason why they shouldn't. I might try it out myself!

Generally, you could buy the postcard projector for around \$100 or so - look on eBay - so the lighting would be about the same sort of price or a bit more.

I think it would be as well to add the rider that any modification or "improvement" to any antique device should be carried out in such a way that it is reversible, leaving no trace of it to safeguard the integrity of the device. So modern illuminants should be fitted without drilling holes etc in the artefact.

Regards and good luck with the program!

I think it would be as well to add the rider that any modification or "improvement" to any antique device should be carried out in such a way that it is reversible, leaving no trace of it to safeguard the integrity of the device. So modern illuminants should be fitted without drilling holes etc in the artefact.

David

# Incuiry

#### J.B. Colt Co. Slides





From Ryan ruyguyslosh@gmail.com

Hey guys I have my hands on some very rare magic lantern slides of Adam and Eve encased in wood planks that I was wondering if you had any info on. Thanks!!

Thank you for getting back to me in such a quick time David, I am so intrigued by all these old slides that I have come across and I just love history so much. It's almost as though the soul takes you back to that time and makes you feel like a certain way. Any ways I certainly hope to actually meet sometime if these slides are worth it and talk about more history and just reminisce on Humanity itself. Thank you so much

Very cool indeed. I'm in Bend Oregon





#### From David Evans

Hello Ryan

Practically all the slide manufacturers and distributors stocked biblical theme slides. I'm not sure if Colt were manufacturers or distributors of other people's slides. They certainly manufactured various ingenious designs of lanterns. When you say encased in wood planks, do you mean they have mahogany mounts? If you could send a couple of pictures that might help with identification.

Hello Ryan

Thank you for the pictures. It was fairly common before about 1890 or so for slides to be supplied in wood mounts. The images look a bit like Dor é engravings. He made a large series of Biblical story illustrations for books and many were made into slides as well, and sold under various slide makers' names. We can put them in our next E-Publication (November) and hope that one of our members may recognise the images. You could also Google "Doré Bible" and probably come across the images.

Hope that helps.

Regards

David Evans Secretary

Thank you for contacting us.



# **About Paintings on Plastic**

#### From Barbara Lewis

bklewis16@earthlink.net

I have some paintings on plastic that look to be from India. Have you ever known a slide to be on plastic rather than glass?

Thank you for your time.

Barbara



Hello Barbara

Yes, some later ones were, especially advertising slides. If you could send a couple of pictures of them it might help with identification.

Thank you for contacting us.

Hi Barbara

What size is the piece? It should be 4" x 3.25" to be a lantern slide. Actually I don't think it is a lantern slide. The paint looks too opaque to allow light to pass through it. A lantern slide has to be printed (or



painted) in translucent paint - more like ink - so that the image appears in colour on the screen. The paint on your image looks as though light would not pass through it and you would just get a silhouette.

Paintings on plastic undoubtedly, but I guess not lantern slides.

Thanks for sending the image.

Regards

David

# Help Identifying Curious Photo-Camera



Lindsay Lambert m.lindsaylambert@gmail.com

Dear David,

Laura Minici Zotti's odd camera is a street photographer's camera for direct positive images on dry plate ferrotypes (tintypes), or special postcard stock. It has been hand-made by someone incorporating the Zeiss-Ikon plate camera for the optics & bellows focussing. Photographers often constructed their own. If you search Google Images for 'Chicago Ferrotype Company Mandel,' you will find commerciallymanufactured cameras of this type.

### A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this months issue.

Terry Borton
Sylvia Budgen
Paul Cordes
Sarah Dellmann
Ron Easterday
Ark Sullivan
Gart Westerhout
Kentwood Wells

Ted Elliott Ryan David & Lesley Evans

John Finney Lindsay Lambert Barbara Lewis

#### Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry





#### **From Ted Elliott**

pkelliott@bright.net

I have several dozen slides(keystone I think)- would like ideas for getting rid of them-thanks

#### **From David Evans**

Hello Ted

Thank you for contacting us.

Keystone produced literally many hundreds of slide images for educational purposes and many thousands of copies of them. Their 600 slide set was supplied to a great many schools in America - the aim was to have the set in every school in the country - around the turn of the 19th/20th Century. Each slide came with a small card printed with details of the scene as teachers' notes.

You could try eBay. If you search for Keystone magic lantern slides you will get an idea of the price they typically sell at.

Good luck with the project.

David Evans Secretary Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

#### **Welcome New Member**

## Sylvia Alting van Geusau

Vincent van Goghstraat 136 Amsterdam 1072KW Netherlands

Ph: (0031) 621 987347

E: sl.altingvangeusau@gmail.com

PhD student, part of B-Magic team at University of Antwerp, Belgium

Interests: Slides and literature, esp about theatre performances

# International Panorama Council President's Report

https://panoramacouncil.org/en/news/



International Panorama Council

#### 2017/2018 President's Report

On behalf of the International Panorama Council's Executive Board and Secretary-General, I would like to share with you not only the accomplishments of the IPC within the past year, but also our goals.